

News from the Illinois Commerce Commission

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ICC approves \$12.2 million railroad bridge project in Danville

The Illinois Commerce Commission has approved plans for a major public safety improvement project involving reconstruction of the Winter Avenue railroad overpass in the city of Danville.

The train bridge carries two CSX tracks over the road, which handles 8,000 vehicles per day. Forty trains at speeds from 25-60 mph use the two CSX tracks each day.

The project will involve reconstruction of the bridge to accommodate two vehicle traffic lanes and a shared use pedestrian/bicycle path underneath the tracks, and increase vertical clearance to 17 feet, 9 inches. The current configuration is a one-lane, 13-foot-wide thoroughfare with a vertical clearance of only 14 feet, 6 inches

The total project cost is estimated to be \$12,283,900. The Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) will be used to pay \$5,702,510 toward eligible costs for the project. The remainder of the project funding will come from federal funding, and monies contributed by CSX and the City. Bid letting will take place in February 2007.

The project is expected to be completed by March 31, 2009.

ABOUT THE GRADE CROSSING PROTECTION FUND (GCPF)

Project selection and management of GCPF highway-rail safety projects include safety improvements such as the installation of new warning systems, highway approach improvements and the construction/reconstruction of grade separation structures. The Commission administers the GCPF, which is funded by motor fuel tax money designated for rail safety improvements. The General Assembly appropriates \$27 million annually for GCPF projects.

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